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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 February 1990

Dear Charles,

Germany: Four plus Two

Thank you for your letter of 22 February which enclosed the speaking note left with you by Mr Kossov about a meeting of "The Six". You asked for some comments before the weekend.

We cannot give you a firm reply for Kossov at this stage. We are firmly in favour of an early meeting, as are the French, and we suggested this to the Americans, offering London as the venue. The Americans originally said that they did not wish to press for an early meeting if the Germans were likely to oppose it, but the balance of the argument might change if the Russians were to want one. We have now told them that the Russians have said they do and the French have also spoken in Washington. So we have both pressed for a meeting. The Americans plan to raise the question with the Germans this weekend.

In the circumstances, I would suggest that you give Kossov a holding reply without revealing how our own thinking is developing, as this would show daylight between the various Western allies.

Yours,
Stephen Wall
(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

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